	Department	Contraception
1997-98	1829.35	165.70
1998-99	2489.35	172.50
1999-2000	2920.00	267.50
2000-01	3520.00	251.00
2001-02	4210.00	268.50

(c) The Couple Protection Rate (CPR) has increased from 40.6 in 1992-93 to 48.2 in 1998-99 as per National Family Health Surveys (NFHS)

Anthrax cases reported from Karnataka

27. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Anthrax infection cases reported in the country, so far;

(b) the number of cases reported from Karnataka;

(c) the amount, if any, released to Karnataka as special grants to tackle Anthrax cases; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure Anthrax is not spread to other places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Natural anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country. The data available with National Institute of communicable Diseases (NICD) is given below:

States	1999		2000		2001	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Kanataka	8	5	Nil		4	2
Orissa	Nil		43	3	Nil	

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government has initiated the following actions:

(i) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of anthrax.

(ii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iii) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(iv) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home & Health, Director of Health Services from various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(v) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for anthrax.

(vi) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Introduction of Genes from one Organism to Another

28. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the vectors used for introducing genes from one organism to another to make a Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are highly infectious and virulent biological agents;

(b) if so, whether the risks of the use of virulent vectors for engineering novel life form have been assessed; and